

Simi Valley Task Force On Heroin Summary Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS.....	2
RECOMMENDATIONS	12
THE FUTURE.....	15

INTRODUCTION

In February 2012, the City of Simi Valley, Simi Valley Unified School District, and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District called for the three agencies to develop a focused, aggressive community action plan to help prevent the use of heroin in Simi Valley. The Task Force on Heroin Prevention was formed as a community-based effort to raise awareness of the issues surrounding substance abuse and to develop and move forward with a plan to combat drug abuse and its impacts in the community. Its primary goal was to develop this coordinated, community substance abuse prevention strategy and develop recommendations for immediate implementation. With very strong and active community support, including hundreds who attended the February 13, 2012 City Council meeting, Simi Valley has demonstrated its commitment to doing everything possible to achieve the goal of "Not One More."

The Task Force on Heroin Prevention is comprised of two representatives each from the Simi Valley City Council, the Simi Valley Unified School District Board of Education, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, and the non-profit organization Not One More, and one representative from the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Task Force held public meetings over the course of four months to hear community concerns, learn about available resources, and create strategies for combating drug abuse.

Representatives to the Task Force are listed below.

Member	Appointing Entity
Mike Judge, City Council Member and Task Force Chair	City of Simi Valley
Rob Collins, Clerk of the Board and Task Force Vice Chair	Simi Valley Board of Education
Bob Huber, Mayor	City of Simi Valley
Janice DiFatta, President	Simi Valley Board of Education
Kate O'Brien, Chair	Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Gene Hostetler, Director	Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Mike McCaffrey, Board Chair	Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Susan Klimusko	Not One More
Pat Montoya	Not One More

The Simi Valley Task Force on Heroin Prevention held its first meeting on April 10, 2012. During this introductory meeting, the Task Force discussed its focus and mission and selected a chair and vice chair. In subsequent meetings the Task Force received presentations from the Simi Valley Unified School District, the Simi Valley Police Department, City of Simi Valley Community Services Department, the Ventura County Probation Agency, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and Not One More. Public Comment was accepted at each of these meetings and the public was able to comment following the presentations and the Task Force's discussion.

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS TO THE SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HEROIN PREVENTION

Presentation by Cheri Toyen, Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE)/Drug Prevention and Intervention Coordinator and Dan Houghton, Director of Secondary Education, Simi Valley Unified School District

The Simi Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) evaluated recommendations made by Not One More and has committed to include drug prevention and resource education in the monthly newsletters distributed to parents of students. The column will include such information as the Prescription Drop-Off Program, where parents can obtain drug testing kits, phone numbers for information and support, and referral information available on the Simi Valley Unified School District's website. School Resource Officers, parents, administrators, and teachers may write articles for the column.

The SVUSD will place calls to parents via their Parent Link system, including information on the anonymous narcotics tip line. In addition, the District will brainstorm ideas to obtain more participation in information nights and provide a variety of topics at those events.

The SVUSD partners with the Simi Valley Youth Council to provide contact information for a variety of resources on the back of student identification cards. Contact information has been provided for the following organizations: 9-1-1, the Childrens' Intensive Response Team (CIRT) Teen Crisis Hotline, the California Youth Crisis Hotline, 2-1-1 Helpline (Interface), Runaway Hotline, Action Family Counseling, Free Clinic, Crime Stoppers, Sierra Vista Urgent Care, and Teen Assistance and Resource Program (TARP). Referrals are also provided to Jewish Family Services, Voluntary Group Counseling at Apollo High School, the Parent Project, "We Tip", United Parents and Ventura County Behavioral Health. SVUSD is currently researching a real-time, anonymous reporting line and is targeting implementation for August 2012.

SVUSD is operating in a state of heightened awareness and has implemented additional training for its staff related to recognizing the signs of drug abuse. The Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) has conducted training in symptom identification for District administrators who can then take the information back to individual school campuses. Police Department staff will also provide training on individual campuses if requested. SVUSD enforces a Zero Tolerance policy on its campuses and will follow-up on every reported suspicion or tip. As a result of this policy, appropriate action is taken to eliminate the possession, use or sale of, alcohol and other drugs on school grounds, at school events, or in any situation in which the school is responsible for the conduct and well being of students. SVUSD ensures that each campus has appropriate supervision, including checking and escorting campus visitors, instituting frequent restroom checks, monitoring the fences surrounding the campuses to ensure that unauthorized visitors are not attempting to gain campus entry, and monitoring the students who return from off-campus lunch.

The SVUSD has policies in place at school sites regarding alcohol and other drugs. Staff is encouraged to get to know their students and become familiar with their behavior, so should there be a behavioral change, staff can recognize it, and provide referrals to the appropriate resources. Students caught with drugs are suspended from all school activities for a period of one year. Should the student commit to counseling and community service, and provides proof these requirements have been completed, the suspension period is reduced to a period of 60 days on a one time basis. SVUSD, along with SVPD, is committing to doubling the use of K-9s to conduct campus searches in the 2012-13 school year, and will search all parking areas, including staff parking, and classrooms.

The District is working on a real-time anonymous reporting mechanism for students and parents in addition to the We Tip program to ensure that the information reaches the schools in a timely manner. Video classes will be filming public service announcements by students for students about the dangers of drug abuse, and the video of the Every 15 Minutes program will be made available to the lower grade levels. The District is in the process of creating a speakers bureau for each campus. Should a topic be scheduled to be covered in class, the teacher can contact the principal to request a speaker familiar with that topic.

The District has a variety of programs to reduce drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. Keepin' It Real (KIR) is presented to all 6th grade students in the classroom. It has been proven effective for reducing drug use, and establishing anti-drug attitudes and beliefs. The program teaches students how to say "no" to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. It enhances life skills through providing lessons on decision-making, communication, and fostering drug resistant strategies. There are 10 lessons and four videos, each by students and for students. Evaluation results of the program have shown that the program produced a significant effect in reducing gateway drug use (alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana), increasing attitudes that support drug-free choices, and increasing resistance strategies useful in avoiding drug use. Historically, KIR was implemented at three middle schools and seven elementary schools and approximately 30 of the elementary school teachers were trained. For the 2011-12 school year, 18 of the 21 elementary schools implemented the KIR curriculum and additional elementary schools will receive training as soon as it is available.

Project Alert is a nationally recognized substance abuse prevention program for 7th and 8th grade students. The program gives students insight, understanding, and skills for resisting substance abuse and addresses tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and inhalants. It is implemented at each middle school in the district and all 7th and 8th grade teachers have been trained. In 7th grade, students receive 11 lessons, including six videos on the following topics: marijuana, consequences of smoking and smoking cessation, alcohol (including consequences and alternatives), peer/social pressure, resisting internal and external pressures, inhalants, practicing resistance skills, influence from the media, and the benefits of not using drugs. In 8th grade, there are three booster lessons focused on the following topics: resisting drugs, frequently asked questions about cocaine and methamphetamines, what teenagers want to know about prescription drugs and cough medicine, practicing resisting external and internal pressures, and the benefits of resisting drugs. This program also incorporates parental interviews and interactions.

Project Toward No Drug Abuse (TND) is provided in 9th grade Health classes and focuses on three factors that predict tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, violence related behaviors, and other problem behaviors among youth. These factors include motivation (such as attitudes, beliefs, and desires); social skills, self control, and coping abilities; and decision making for positive behaviors.

The Brain: Understanding Neurobiology Through the Study of Addiction is a program developed through a partnership of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and is a supplement to the curriculum of 10th grade Biology classes. It was created as a tool for school science teachers to make this subject area easier to teach and learn and is a supplement to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention tools. The curriculum focuses on how drug abuse begins, the difference between abuse and addiction, and treatment.

Tobacco Free Generations is a comprehensive tobacco-use prevention and intervention program for pregnant and parenting teens. This program is provided at Apollo High School as part of the Minor Parent Program. It provides seven cross-curricular tobacco-specific lessons with strong language arts and visual arts links. The lessons emphasize the responsibility young parents must embrace for their own health and the health of their children.

Friday Night Live Mentoring is a youth development and substance abuse prevention program. This program provides high school students with the opportunity to act as peer mentors. The program works to empower young people by giving them a voice in combating issues that are important to them and their respective communities. Currently, Royal High School students mentor students at Sinaloa and Hillside Middle Schools and Simi Valley High School students mentor students at Valley View Middle School. Middle school students who are identified as “at risk” are referred by school administrators, counselors, and/or teachers to be mentored by high school students in the program.

Smoking cessation groups, known as Tobacco Education Groups (TEG), are provided on school campuses through the Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) grant. TEG is used at the middle schools, and is an option for high schools, and is a practical, science based program that shows staff how to effectively deal with students who violate a school’s tobacco policy. It is frequently used as an alternative to suspension. TEG is an eight session program that teaches the dangers and negative consequences of tobacco use. The program encourages teens to adopt healthier lifestyles, move toward quitting, and enroll in a voluntary cessation program, such as the Tobacco Awareness Program (TAP). TAP is provided weekly at each high school and less frequently at the middle school campuses.

Additional classroom curriculum is provided on the campuses related to healthy behaviors. Curriculum in Health classes include information related to tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, while Physical Education curriculum addresses healthy living and the effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

The programs offered by SVUSD are evaluated in a variety of ways. The high school cessation groups are monitored by the TUPE Coordinator on a monthly basis. Keepin’ It Real,

Project TND, Project Alert, Tobacco Free Generations, and “The Brain” are evaluated by the grant administrator, which is the Ventura County Office of Education. In addition, students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grade participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey every two years. The most recent survey was conducted in November 2011. The data collected is reviewed by the Ventura County Office of Education and evaluated based on Simi Valley’s previous results as well as the results throughout the County of Ventura.

SVUSD provides additional programs including Red Ribbon Week, which is focused on drug prevention; the Every 15 Minutes program in conjunction with the Simi Valley Police Department, which is focused on drinking and driving; Second Step, a program targeted to middle school students to encourage participants to avoid bullying, violence, and drugs. Safe School Ambassadors are high school students who have been identified as socially influential and taught nonviolent communication and intervention skills to stop bullying and violence among their peers. The Tobacco Bus is provided to 6th grade students in the fall and spring by Ventura County Behavioral Health; the SVUSD supports attendance at the annual Youth Summit, which provides youth the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and brainstorm solutions; Kick Butts Day is provided at the secondary school level to increase alcohol and tobacco awareness; and “Why Try” is an elective for middle school students which encourages them to fulfill their greatest potential. PTSA Health Fairs are provided to educate students about nutrition and health; Assemblies are presented to secondary level students at the beginning of each school year; Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is a lunchtime club for students.

Additional resources are available on a daily basis for students and parents, such as the School Resource Officers, resources for parents on each school’s website, and staff assigned to each school, including the Administrators, Counselors, Teachers, Campus Supervisors, Support Staff and the School Nurse. At Apollo High School, the principal, and counselors are trained in recognizing the signs and symptoms of drug abuse.

Students also have access to additional programs that address positive life choices, such as extra and co-curricular activities, National Honors Society, campus clubs, Agenda Book Chats, Renaissance Rallies, and leadership activities.

SVUSD takes a proactive role to address the health and safety of its students and encourages parents to meet with school counselors should they observe unusual behavior in students. Counselors can provide resources to the parents, and can work with teachers to monitor those students throughout the day and provide additional support as needed.

Presentation on Resources and Programs, Simi Valley Police Department, Interim Chief Ron Chambers and Captain John McGinty

The Simi Valley Police Department administers and/or assists with a variety of programs available related to drug prevention, including the Parent Project, Prescription Drug Drop-Off Program, Every 15 Minutes, the Explorer Program, Citizens Academy, and the Community Crime Prevention Task Force.

The Police Department's Narcotics Enforcement includes the Patrol Division, Special Enforcement Section (including Street Level Narcotics Enforcement), and the Special Investigative Section (including Narcotics Detectives, and the Federal Narcotics Task Force).

During the period of August 20, 2011 through April 30, 2012, the Police Department made 73 heroin related arrests, 61 of which were between the ages 18 - 30. During this same time period, no heroin related arrests were made among subjects between the ages of 10 and 17 and no heroin related arrests were made on school campuses.

The demographic breakdown of heroin related arrests throughout Simi Valley from January 1, 2010 through March 21, 2012 was: 84.6% male and 15.4% female; 76.9% White, 17.2% Hispanic, 3.6% Black, and 2.4% classified as Other.

During the period of January 1, 2010 through March 21, 2012, the age demographics for heroin related arrests were:

Ages 11 - 15: 0%
Ages 16 - 18: 2.4%
Ages 19-20: 13.6%
Ages 21 - 25: 49.1%
Ages 26 - 30: 21.9%
Over the age of 30: 13%

The Police Department partners with the Simi Valley Unified School District to provide on-campus enforcement, including K-9 Units, School Resource Officers, and Patrol Officers.

Moving forward, strategies to decrease heroin use in the community include the expanded presence of K-9s on campus; School In-Service Training; a Community Forum on drug abuse to include representatives from law enforcement, the media, community, and treatment programs; and the Drug Drop-off Program which is available 24 hours a day at the Simi Valley Police Station.

Presentation on Resources and Programs, Debbie Solomon, Director, Community Services Department

The Simi Valley Community Services Department offers a variety of programs for youth, including the Teen Assistance and Resource Program, Youth Employment Service, Youth Services and Resources, Crossing Guards, Citizen Advisor, and Simi Valley Youth Council. The Community Services Department offers resources and referral assistance, interagency collaboration, employment services, workshops/crisis intervention, and youth engagement.

The Teen Assistance and Resource Program provides resources and referrals, crisis intervention, and workshops directed to teens aged 12 – 17 and their families on communication, behavioral issues, skills training and empowerment.

The Youth Employment Service provides employment training for youth ages 13 – 22, one-on-one job counseling, job search/referral, Entering the Workforce workshops for 13 and 14 year olds, interview skills workshops, and the Annual Job and Career Expo for youth ages 15 – 22.

The Department also provides youth services and resources, such as the Crossing Guard program, and the Youth Services Providers Meet and Greet. The Meet and Greet is a collaboration with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District which provides information on the available resources, creates greater access to services, interagency networking and collaboration, with over 40 participating youth organizations.

The Citizen Advisor Program is a resource and referral service for adults, and provides resource dissemination with a directory of social services. The Citizen Advisor Program also manages the Task Force on Homelessness.

The Simi Valley Youth Council identifies community issues that impact teens and annually creates a Youth Council Work Plan to address those issues. The Council serves as a resource by partnering with the Simi Valley Unified School District to provide teen crisis phone numbers to be printed on the back of the high school identification cards, and they organize and host the annual Youth Leadership Summit which focuses on leadership development and civic engagement.

The 2012 Youth Council recommendations related to heroin abuse resulting from input received at the Annual Youth Leadership Summit are: an Every 15 Minutes-type program related to drug abuse, teen presenters, outside agency speakers, “Scared Straight” speakers, and a focus at the 9th grade level.

The Community Services Department can partner with the Task Force on Heroin Prevention to provide public service announcements on the Simi Valley Transit Bus Shelters.

Based on community input received by the Community Services Department over time, residents would like centralized information on youth resources, educational outreach on those

resources, increased access to services, and enhanced networking and collaboration among youth service providers.

Informational Presentation by the Ventura County Probation Agency Presented by Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Alan Hammerand and Probation Adult Services Officer, Pat Olivares

Of the clients on formal probation in Ventura County, 13,150 are adults (of which, approximately 8,000 are on Formal Probation for DUI and multiple DUI convictions) and 1,354 are juveniles. Of the clients on Formal Probation in East County, 634 are adults and 244 are juveniles.

There are four sentencing options for drug related crimes. Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) is where the client is deferred from being further processed in the criminal justice system and the focus is on treatment. 1210 PC (Prop 36) is where the client has the option to participate by admitting to the charges against them, in which case, their conviction is set-aside for 36 months, and the focus is on treatment. Drug Court is utilized if the convicted is not eligible for any other program, and they can complete a one year residential treatment program. The last option is Standard Formal Probation.

Evidence Based practices are: Risk and Needs Assessments including the PROXY and Ohio Risk and Needs Assessment (ORAS-CST) tool. The Department focuses on high risk clients, and on case plans targeting criminal risk factors. The Department dedicates resources primarily to moderate and high-level risk offenders. The graduated responses that the Department employs include: Jail/Work Furlough, Community Work, Cognitive Restructuring Group, Residential Treatment, Out-Patient Treatment, random testing, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, and increased reporting. Jail is not the only option and is not always be the best deterrent to the abuse of drugs.

The Probation Department provided an overview of the process flow once someone has been arrested in Simi Valley.

Three programs are offered for juvenile offenders: the Recovery Classroom, Juvenile Drug Court, and Solutions Court. The Recovery Classroom is a collaboration between Ventura County Behavioral Health, Gateway School in Camarillo and Pacific High School in Ventura, offered to youth who have a dependency on substances. East County youth are eligible to participate in the program. Juvenile Drug Court is administered by Ventura County Behavioral Health with offenders required to see a judge weekly, bi-weekly or as directed. There is a no tolerance enforcement posture, and if an offender tests positive for substances, they are remanded to custody. Solutions Court is for offenders who are dependent on drugs but also have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

Presentation of Programs and Resources Offered by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, by Larry Peterson, General Manager, Colleen Janssen, Marketing and Community Outreach Specialist, Doug Gale, Recreation Administrator, and Jerry DeRosa, Senior Park Ranger

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD) offers healthy and safe alternatives to drug and alcohol use through programs, facilities, partnerships, employment, and volunteer opportunities. RSRPD partners with the City's Senior Center to provide programs to senior citizens. RSRPD partners with the City's Youth Council to provide a host location for the Annual Youth Leadership Summit at no cost to the City. RSRPD has partnered with the Simi Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) to perform site improvements and maintenance at a variety of sports fields. SVUSD assists with the maintenance costs and RSRPD conducts programming during after school hours. Partner locations include: Apollo High School, Berylwood Elementary School, Hillside Middle School, and the Rancho Simi Pool and Fields. The City and RSRPD partner on a Meet and Greet Event to facilitate the exchange of information between youth service providers; RSRPD, the City and the Rotary Club partner to host the annual 4th of July Extravaganza; and RSRPD partners with the Kiwanis Club to provide the K-bus to transport senior citizens and Alternative Recreation participants to programs.

The RSRPD Volunteer Program has more than 700 volunteers, in addition to sports program coaches. 49% of those volunteers are teens between the ages of 12-18, 51% are over the age of 18, and five of those 700 volunteers are over the age of 80. Volunteers work on a variety of tasks, including office/clerical work, special events, assistance with classes/programs, trail work, and the Alternative Recreation program. RSRPD can also accommodate group projects, and works with SVUSD, ARC, Pathpoint and Villa Esperanza, to provide volunteer opportunities for people with disabilities. RSRPD also provides volunteer opportunities to youth are participating in the Simi Valley Police Department's Diversion Program.

RSRPD will include an ad in the Volunteer Scoop newsletter, scheduled for distribution in June 2012 to 750 people and in the fall issue of the Reporter, scheduled for distribution in August 2012, with a distribution of 44,000, advising readers of the Task Force on Heroin Prevention and how they can get involved.

There are 41 parks on 450 acres in Simi Valley. There are equestrian facilities, basketball and tennis courts, golf courses, historical parks, passive, and natural parks. There are sports fields that are owned and/or maintained by RSRPD, including seven soccer fields, in addition to Berylwood Elementary School and Hillside Middle School, 20 softball fields, and 19 baseball fields. There are 4,500 acres of Open Space which provides opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature watching, and more.

There are programs and activities for pre-teens, teens, adults, and seniors. The Early Age (pre-teen) programs include 10 preschools that serve over 200 youth. 300 "classes" and 2,300 youth participate per quarter in activities such as art, BMX, bowling, cheer, dance, fencing, gymnastics, ice skating, martial arts, skateboarding, soccer, swimming, surfing, tennis,

theater, Triathlon training, youth instructional volleyball, grass volleyball, youth instructional basketball, and youth basketball leagues. There is also before and after school programming at eight elementary schools that serve over 700 youth.

The Teen programs include teen sports leagues that include approximately 180 participants in basketball and 50 participants in volleyball. There are dances and Battle of the Bands competitions which offers prizes at a drug and alcohol free concert venue. RSRPD offers excursions and a teen travel camp for the 2012 summer. Also offered are outdoor movies, movies at the Town Center mall, and a new summer program called FUSE offering movie and video gaming followed by a DJ Dance. There programs for middle school students at lunch and after school. Also available for middle school students are gaming nights, and Girls' Night Outs and Boys' Night Out overnight events, Club Anime, Jr. Guard (lifeguard) program, babysitting certification classes, summer sports camps, and aquatic programs, including swimming, springboard diving and water polo. RSRPD supports local youth sports organizations with both facilities and field use coordination.

RSRPD employs over 260 young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 in a variety of positions, such as the After School Care (ASC) Recreation Counselors and Summer Day Camp Counselors, Youth and Adult Sports league scorekeepers and referees, aquatic lifeguards, and special events. RSRPD considers itself the largest employer of youth in the City.

The RSRPD Park Rangers are tenured law enforcement professionals. They are Peace Officers who have the ability to cite, arrest, and educate park-goers. There are two full-time and nine part-time Rangers. The role of the Rangers is to promote the safe use of the facilities by all, enforce public safety and protect district property, respond to requests for assistance and additional coverage, interact with the Simi Valley Police Department and Ventura County Sheriffs Department, maintain visibility to deter crime, educate the public on the rules and regulations of the parks, issue warnings and citations when needed, call for back up when appropriate, and provide security at special events. Of the 22 interactions the Rangers had with the public regarding drugs during the period of May 2011 through May 2012, two of those were related to heroin.

RSRPD partners with the community, has many opportunities for involvement, pledges its support to reduce drug abuse, and invites suggestions on how it can help on these important issues.

Presentation of the Mission and Resources Provided by Not One More (NOM), presented by Susan Klimusko and other NOM Members

Not One More presented a film depicting the dangers of drug abuse and personal accounts of addiction and its impacts on individuals and their families. Presenters discussed NOM's purpose, which is to educate families about the hazards of heroin and other drug abuse to guide children to take a path, which is free of devastation, incarceration and death; to help those who may be struggling with addiction; and to lift them to a place of recovery and peace. This purpose will only be accomplished by working in concert with city leaders, the media, social

networking sites, and other available resources. Members of NOM can be role models for others in the community to follow, as the community stands united to say “Not One More overdose, Not One More lost spirit, Not One More grieving heart.”

Not One More will be focusing on: fundraising; educating parents about drugs in the community, how they are used and their effects on users; providing a 24/7 web-based resource center with information about drugs, recovery and where families can turn in times of crisis; helping to bridge the cost of rehabilitation and insurance coverage through scholarships and gifts; helping families navigate the insurance, rehabilitation and services maze that currently exists; providing an active grief outreach program, low or no cost intervention services; advocating for age appropriate drug education at all school levels; and actively working with the Task Force on Heroin Prevention to inspire change.

NOM helps find jobs for recovering addicts, hosts fundraising events, and raises awareness of heroin and other drug abuse in the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In July 2012, members of the Task Force began discussion of specific strategies to combat the abuse of heroin and other drugs in the community.

The following strategies comprise opportunities identified over the course of the Task Force meeting schedule. While some strategies represent successful programs that are currently in effect, many are the product of the outreach and resource gathering process undertaken by the Task Force. The strategies are presented in priority order based on the rankings assigned by Task Force members. Each ranking is out of a possible 5 points.

Strategy	Responsible Agency
Implement educational programs beginning with 6 th grade students through high school youth (4.625)	All Agencies
Develop middle school and high school peer support groups (4.5)	Simi Valley Unified School District and City of Simi Valley
Employ media targeted to youth (4.5)	All Agencies
Invite organizations which provide resources to youth and families (such as the City, Police Department and Park District) to participate during middle school and high school events such as back to school night, health fairs, college information nights, and other events to distribute information about activities and programs (4.375)	Simi Valley Unified School District
Provide drug and alcohol awareness classes for parents and kids (4.375)	All Agencies
Disseminate information to the public on intervention/treatment programs (4.375)	All Agencies
Promote positive activities for youth (4.25)	All Agencies
Continue attempts to educate public via written materials and social media. (4.125)	All Agencies
Develop ability for anonymous reporting of drug possession, sales, or use (4)	Simi Valley Police Department
Continue to develop web site information regarding drugs and alcohol abuse (4)	All Agencies
Provide anti-drug education in 6 th grade (perhaps the every 15 minutes program) (4)	Simi Valley Police Department and Simi Valley Unified School District
Develop list of rehabilitation centers, post on website (4)	All Agencies
Request local news outlets to run articles on the subject of alcohol and drug abuse every four months (4)	All Agencies
Educate service providers on available resources (4)	All Agencies
Allow an increased number of event and activity flyers to be distributed by teachers in middle schools and high schools during announcements (3.875)	Simi Valley Unified School District

Strategy	Responsible Agency
Provide information to detainees being released by SVPD and Ventura County Sheriff on where and how to get help (3.875)	Simi Valley Police Department
Educate Neighborhood Watch program participants about what to look for to determine drug use and sales, how and where to report, etc. (3.875)	City of Simi Valley and Simi Valley Police Department
Issue Public Service Announcements, i.e. bus shelters (3.875)	All Agencies
Coordinate with religious institutions to meet, develop ideas and collaborate on solutions (3.75)	All Agencies
Conduct random K-9 Searches at schools (3.75)	Simi Valley Police Department
Coordinate regional efforts (3.75)	All Agencies
Hold community forums targeted to parents (3.5)	All Agencies
Place articles discouraging drug use and indicating where and how to get help (3.5)	All Agencies
Mail educational flyers with water and cable bills (3.5)	City of Simi Valley
Identify resources for parents and youth (3.5)	All Agencies
Limit drug availability, e.g. drop off programs (3.25)	Simi Valley Police Department
Involve businesses by placing posters at their locations that advise people about the places to go and people to talk to (3.125)	All Agencies
Maintain an on-campus presence and support, e.g. School Resource Officers (3.125)	Simi Valley Police Department and Simi Valley Unified School District
Increase the number of School Resource Officers by two (3)	City of Simi Valley and Simi Valley Police Department
Create 12 step group on school campuses (3)	Simi Valley Unified School District
Develop a survey to ask the community: are they aware of drug use, the age of the user, do they reside in Simi Valley, do they know what to look for, do they know where to get help; do they have recommendations, etc. (2.75)	All Agencies
Implement diversion programs (2.75)	Simi Valley Police Department

In addition to the strategies provided above, the following strategies were identified and ranked by a majority of the Task Force members subsequent to the preparation of the preceding list.

Strategy	Responsible Agency
Make sure parents see the details of events – death, arrests, etc. (4.6)	All Agencies
Real people and former addicts speaking to school kids (i.e. youth to youth) (4.2)	Simi Valley Unified School District
Education on the dangers of pill usage (4.2)	All Agencies

Strategy	Responsible Agency
Public Awareness – have parent/guardian sign drug forms in addition to students (4.2)	Simi Valley Unified School District
Build peer pressure to keep students off drugs and tobacco (4)	All Agencies
More drug prevention education in schools (4)	Simi Valley Unified School District
Additional treatment options through our local hospitals (e.g. Narcan/Naloxone which prevents or reverses the effects of opiodes) (3.6)	All Agencies/Simi Valley Hospital
Distribute informational material to drug users (3.4)	Simi Valley Police Department
Ride alongs for people working on their credentials to reach out to the people using drugs on the streets (3.4)	Simi Valley Police Department
Promote student groups to support anti-drug use (3.4)	Simi Valley Unified School District
Introduce age appropriate prevention programs in schools starting at a younger age (K-6) so children learn how to say no to drugs (3)	Simi Valley Unified School District

THE FUTURE

The Task Force on Heroin Prevention recognizes the impacts of heroin abuse on the community and is committed to addressing this problem. Throughout the four months that the Task Force met, its members were educated about the resources currently available to those who use heroin and to their families. While there are a number of programs available, the Task Force has confirmed that more can be done and has identified additional strategies to combat the abuse of heroin. These strategies will not only increase awareness of the problem, but also will serve to inform of the resources available to families before they are in a time of crisis.

The Task Force brought together a broad spectrum of community leaders who are committed to carrying out the strategies identified, as well as continuing to identify resources and programs that can assist with the furtherance of the Task Force's mission.

The Task Force recommends monitoring the progress of the implemented strategies and their impacts on heroin abuse in Simi Valley and that the responsible agencies continue to collaborate on an on-going basis to meet the goal of "Not One More".